

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 5-7 and 9-11 have been amended, claims 7 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, and new claims 12-16 are added.

Thus, claims 1, 2, and 5, 6-9, 11, and 12-16 are pending and under consideration with claims 5 and 8 indicated as allowable (if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims).

Entry and favorable consideration of the amendments and remarks presented herewith is earnestly solicited.

I. Priority Claim

The specification has been amended to include the priority claim, which was stated by Applicants in the application transmittal, in the first sentence of the specification as requested by the Examiner.

II. Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, and 11 stands rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by the '586 published application to Teller et al. ("Teller").

Applicants respectfully assert that Teller does not represent prior art vis-à-vis the presently claimed subject matter. That is, pursuant to the two Declarations appended hereto as EXHIBIT 1 and EXHIBIT 2 and EXHIBIT 3 also included herewith in support of the Declarations, Teller must be withdrawn as a reference in rejecting these claims.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 4 and intervening claim 3, claim 5 has been amended to depend from claim 1, and claims 3 and 4 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 6, 7 and 9 have been amended to include the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claim 3, and claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations of base claim 1. Accordingly, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to those matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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